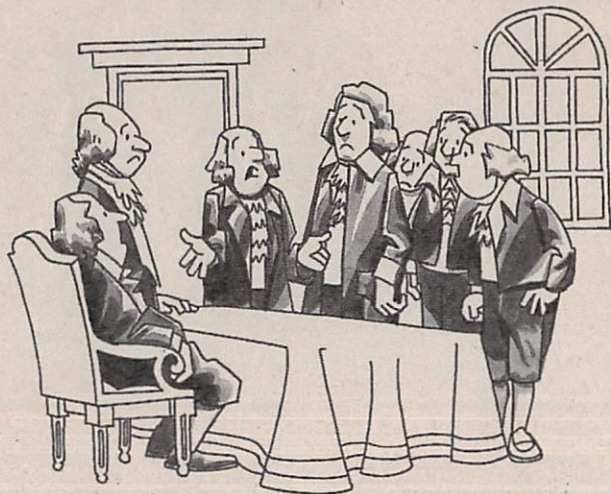


Black Beauty

Legendary sculpture by today's foremost equestrian artist.



Laugh Parade



"Stamp taxes, tea taxes, import taxes...If we don't stop King George now, we'll end up with *income taxes!*"

HOWARD HUGE®



"Howard has a flair for the dramatic."

LYNN MINTON REPORTS:

Fresh Voices

'Yo, No, Don't Try It'

Ice-T is a popular rap artist who used to belong to a street gang but got a chance for another life and took it. Now, many of the raps on his albums and videos have an anti-crime or anti-drug message. They also have explicit language, sexual references and imagery, and in some cases display sexist attitudes—and Ice-T has been strongly criticized for that. We asked him why he does all this, emphasizing the vulgarity, and why he quit the gang. Here are his answers:

"I was sprung out there on the streets, into crime and things like that. And I didn't really have a fear of going to jail, because I didn't have anything better. I didn't have any family or anything. But one night I was in a club rapping—which was just something I picked



Ice-T: "I know my rap is not for everybody"

up—and this producer walked in. He was making this movie about breakdancing, and he said, 'I want you in it.' I looked at him like he was crazy. 'I ain't being in no movie, man.' I had the attitude that all white people want to do is exploit me. But my friends told me, 'Ice, man, go for it, man. White people like you, man. You don't have to be in here.'

"Since then, all of them have been to prison. A lot of them are dead—I've got to go to a funeral this weekend. It's like the devastation that the streets bring. And every time I might have thought that I wasn't going to make it in the music business—maybe I should go back to the streets—somebody

out, there's a big cliff. And all my friends fell off of the cliff.

"So, I'm like yelling back to the kids: 'Yo, no, don't try it. It might look like it's a shortcut, but it's not.'

"I never did drugs or drank anything—and, in a gang, if one person doesn't get

high, people don't push him. They're kind of happy. They're like, 'Okay, Ice'll be the guy who can talk. He'll know where the door is.' Kind of like a designated driver. But if I catch one of these kids out here who wants to hustle drugs, I won't say, 'Don't get involved with it.' I'll say, 'Look, man, I knew this guy, man, and he had bad cars and money and jewelry, and he went to Vegas and gambled a lot...' And the kid goes, 'Yeah, yeah.' And I say, 'That night, he was getting ready to make a million dollars, cash, but he OD'd off heroin.'

"Of course, no matter what I say, they think, 'It's not going to happen to me.' But the only thing you can do